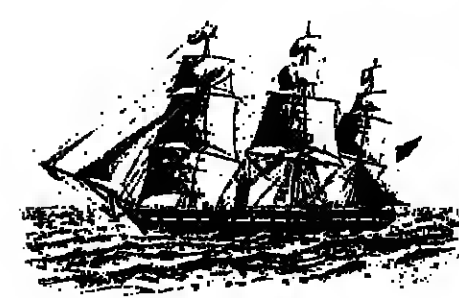






# The Oceanography Report



H.M.S. Challenger preparing to sail, 1872

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## New Directions For The National Ocean Service

Paul M. Wolff

The National Ocean Service, which I've headed since December 1983, is one of the major line components of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA, in turn, is part of the Department of Commerce and is the leading federal agency in the oceanic and atmospheric sciences. Other agencies are involved in the earth sciences, such as the Department of the Interior's Geological Survey, or are in the business of environmental regulations, like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, but NOAA is the one federal agency charged specifically with analyzing and predicting oceanic and atmospheric components of the earth's environment as a whole. The importance of this global, integrated air-sea approach is reflected in the five NOAA line offices.

This past December, NOAA line offices were reorganized to consolidate programs as part of the Reagan Administration's general government-wide restructuring effort (see Figure 1). The idea was for NOAA to grow leaner but stronger. The main thrust of the work of the Weather Service and the Marine Fisheries Service remained the same. The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research continued to provide research support to the other NOAA components. A returned down Environmental Data and Information Service merged with the National Environmental Satellite Service to become today's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. Also, this past December the NOAA Office of Coastal Zone Management joined forces with the National Ocean Survey to become the National Ocean Service.

This change from Ocean Survey to Ocean Service was more than just a name change; it gives a due to other changes and new directions for NOAA in general and the National Ocean Service in particular. What is being done throughout the NOAA team is to emphasize "service," to make NOAA products and services more responsive to the needs of users. Right now, the National Ocean Service and other NOAA components are re-evaluating many traditional products and services and are taking on some new responsibilities that build on existing NOAA capabilities and expertise.

Today's National Ocean Service is made up of four line offices that carry out its major functions: charting and geodetic services, oceanography and marine services, ocean and coastal resource management, and marine operations. (Since this article was written, the National Ocean Service has further realigned its programs to improve products and services by creating a new line office solely responsible for ocean services and external affairs.) (See Figure 2.)

The Office of Charting and Geodetic Services produces NOAA's nautical and aeronautical charts, special purpose marine maps, and geodetic products and services. This is the heart of the Ocean Service's predecessor agencies, since the agency was founded in 1807 during the administration of Thomas Jefferson to survey and chart the Atlantic

coastal waters of the new republic. Working closely with other NOAA and Ocean Service offices, the Office of Charting and Geodetic Services will have a lead role in surveying the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that President Reagan declared in March of 1983. The EEZ Proclamation "confirms U.S. sovereign rights and control over the living and non-living natural resources of the seabed, subsoil and superadjacent waters beyond the territorial sea but within 200 nautical miles." National Ocean Service responsibilities will include in-depth and comprehensive physical, biological, and chemical assessments. This is a massive job that will change many of the ways NOAA surveys and makes observations. In addition to the hydrographic surveys NOAA conducts by ship, it will be necessary to greatly increase the use of both fixed and floating platforms, including those designed specifically for ocean observations and commercial platforms intended for other purposes, such as oil and gas exploration. The goal is to double the amount of marine observations in a year and to increase them 10 times over the next 5 years.

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management is the part of NOAA that was added to the old National Ocean Survey to make the new National Ocean Service. Through this office, NOAA provides the coordination and expertise at the federal level needed to balance the often competing demands to preserve and to develop the marine resources within the U.S. coastal zone. This office works closely with coastal states, and as these various states win approval for their coastal zone management plans and develop their own coastal programs, involvement at the federal level will be phased out.

The Office of Marine Operations is the Ocean Service component that manages and operates NOAA's fleet of research and survey ships, which collect basic marine data used by all the other NOAA components. Since ships and time at sea are very expensive, this is one area in which NOAA is trying especially to improve productivity and efficiency. One way to achieve these goals is to share ship time with other federal and state agencies, universities, research organizations, and other groups and individuals in the private sector.

This piggy-backing of experiments and multiple use of ships result in more economical use of NOAA ship time, while at the same time improving the productivity of individual cruises. NOAA is also installing new equipment on the NOAA ships, including Global Positioning System receivers, SEAS transmitters to relay meteorological data directly to the Weather Service for processing, multi-beam sensors, new CTD profilers, and perhaps most important, a new automated hydrographic data acquisition and processing system called the Shipboard Data System (SDS) III. SDS III is replacing the mainstay hydrographic data acquisition and processing system of the NOAA fleet, the Hydrolog/Hydroplot System. Hydrolog/Hydroplot is based on the Digital Equipment Corporation's PDP-8/e computer, one of the earliest minicomputers. One of the biggest problems faced by NOAA in recent years was that the NOAA ships were able to collect much more data than could be processed expeditiously. This resulted in a huge data backlog that NOAA is now vigorously trying to reduce. The goal is to eliminate existing backlogs and establish systems to complete data processing end-to-end within 60 days of the time the data are received from ships or other sources.

The Office of Oceanography and Marine Services is one of the newest line elements of the National Ocean Service. Whereas today it is one of NOAA's busiest line offices, only a few years ago it was only a division of a line office. This expansion in NOAA oceanographic programs probably best reflects one of the new directions that line offices are moving in throughout NOAA. Through the Office of Oceanography and Marine Services, NOAA collects, processes, and analyzes a wide range of data and information that describe the physical processes of the oceans, the U.S. coastal zone, estuarine waterways, and the Great Lakes. But whereas the Ocean Service formerly collected these types of hydrographic data primarily to support in-lake charting and surveying functions, the

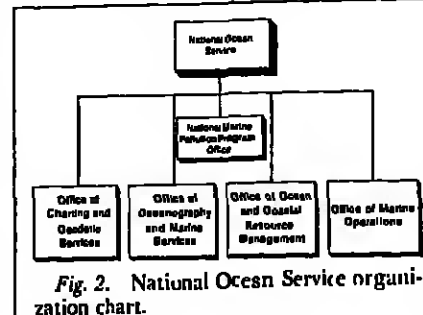


Fig. 2. National Ocean Service organization chart.

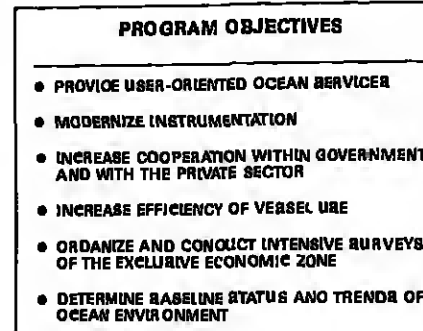


Fig. 3. Program objectives.

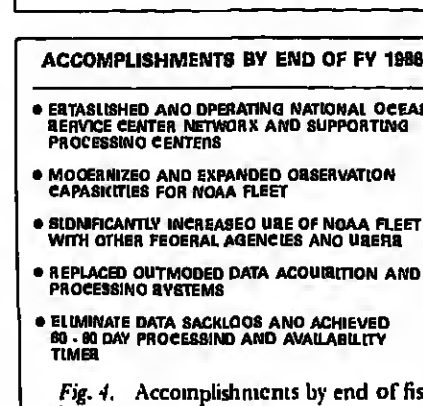


Fig. 4. Accomplishments by end of fiscal year 1986.

engineering and coastal management uses of these observations have now become just as important. The National Ocean Service still produces tide predictions, tidal current predictions, tidal current charts, and other traditional data products that are primarily nautical-chart related. But greater emphasis is now being placed on oceanographic and marine information products that provide the scientific basis for offshore oil and gas exploration, dredging operations, coastal and offshore construction, emergency planning programs of coastal communities, and other engineering applications. There now is also an entire division within the Office of Oceanography and Marine Services to conduct assessments of the multiple uses of marine resources and project the impacts of these activities on the environment. A major goal here is to establish baseline environmental conditions so that it is then possible to determine trends in the ocean environment.

Another new, major NOAA program that plays a crucial role in improving NOAA's delivery of oceanographic and marine products and services is the concept of regional NOAA ocean service centers. This past October NOAA opened the first of these centers in Seattle, Wash. This prototype center is the first in a proposed network of one-stop retail service centers, staffed by personnel from each NOAA component, where users of NOAA's oceanographic products and services in individual regions of the United States can go to get needed information that NOAA provides. The Northwest Ocean Service Center and the others planned by NOAA will be a place where users of NOAA products can go to get representatives of each NOAA line office what is good about NOAA ocean products and services, what is bad about them, what NOAA is doing right, and what NOAA is doing wrong. (See Figure 3.)

The goal of all of this, from the upgrading of NOAA's research and survey ships to the establishment of regional NOAA ocean service centers, is to provide products and services that better meet the needs of users, turn out these products and services more efficiently, and improve the turnaround time for their delivery, the essence of the new directions for NOAA and for the National Ocean Service. (See Figure 4.)

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## Information Report

### Ocean Climate Research

A recently published report, *An Ocean Climate Research Strategy* [Webster, 1984] reviews ocean research that will lead to our support an ability to predict year-to-year natural variations in climate one year in advance. The study was supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and is intended to guide NSF in its lead role for ocean climate research. This article summarizes that study. As with the original report, I here give my personal conclusions derived from the review. Copies of *An Ocean Climate Research Strategy* are available from the Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20418.

#### Summary

Oceanographers and meteorologists have proposed research programs to enhance our understanding of climate variability [Committee on Climate Changes and the Ocean, 1983a; Board on Ocean Science and Policy, 1983]. Parts of these programs are already under way. The report reviews proposals for two large-scale research programs: the Interannual Variability of the Tropical Ocean and the Global Atmosphere (TOGA) and the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE). In addition, it reviews plans for large-scale ocean heat flux experiments, ocean climate monitoring, and ocean climate research that are not explicitly included in the existing proposals for large-scale experiments. The report offers advice on strategies for use by NSF.

NSF is the lead federal agency for the Ocean Heat Transport and Storage "principal thrust" of the National Climate Program. The National Climate Program Plan [U.S. National Climate Program Office, 1980] designates six principal thrusts, two of which deal with research. A principal thrust has high priority, is of major importance to the goals of the program, and promises significant opportunity for progress. The report considers where ocean climate research supported by each agency might fit into the national program.

Finally, the report considers the international setting. Many countries are participating in the planning of a global research program that addresses all aspects of the problem of climate: the World Climate Research Program (WCRP). The report reviews WCRP plans and advises on how American ocean climate research activities can fit within the world program, run aid it, and can benefit from it.

#### Role of the Ocean in Climate Variability

What are the mechanisms, if any, by which the ocean influences year-to-year variations in the earth's climate? Does the ocean play a role in producing climate anomalies, such as droughts, floods, heat waves, and abnormal frosts? If it does, can we understand the processes whereby this occurs? Can we develop a capability for predicting climate change?

We know that the ocean plays a major role in determining the mean climate state of the world. It is critical in controlling global patterns of precipitation and evaporation. The ocean absorbs energy from the sun and releases energy to the atmosphere at times and places distant from the point where the energy was received. The seasonal temperature range is reduced over land areas adjacent to the ocean because of the large heat inertia of the ocean.

The oceanic poleward flux of heat is of the same order of magnitude as the atmospheric, but the processes of oceanic transport are not well understood. To understand the mean climate state of the world, we must take account of the role of the ocean in establishing and maintaining the global heat balance. However, the mean climate state of the ocean is not well understood. Unless oceanic variability can be defined in terms of its departure from some mean state, we may be unable to explain the influence of the ocean on global climate.

Both ocean and atmosphere show climate variability on time scales of months to centuries. The annual or seasonal cycle is generally large, but the nonseasonal variability can be large, but the nonseasonal variability in some oceanic areas, particularly in the tropical Pacific, is large. Ocean heat storage, transport, and release to the atmosphere are variable. It is transfer to the atmosphere that the principal may be that such variations are the principal oceanic factor controlling climate variability. Thus an understanding of the uptake, transport, storage, and release of heat by the ocean may lead to an understanding of global climate variations.

Models of the atmosphere with and without a moving ocean show that the ocean influences the mean atmospheric temperature distribution. The circulation of the ocean appears to affect climate variability on all scales. Thus there are proposals to study the general

circulation and the climate state of the ocean. Ocean heat transport and storage processes have lifetimes that are long in comparison with those of the atmosphere. Atmospheric predictability may be limited to week or two. But the chain of events in the Southern Oscillation, a global-scale atmospheric and oceanic climate anomaly, has a duration of about 18 months. Through the ocean and atmosphere interact, this long time scale seems to be dominated by the high thermal and mechanical inertia of the ocean. Thus, long-range climate forecasting probably must take ocean processes into account.

The largest nonseasonal climate variability is the interannual, which may regionally be larger than the annual or seasonal. Year-to-year variations in the earth's climate are of great economic importance. Unusual rainfall, drought, or heat waves can have significant agricultural impacts. Oceanic thermal variations related to climate variability can affect marine fisheries. Thus, there are economic incentives to develop a predictive ability.

Climate variations having scales of approximately a decade, with important economic effects, are known to exist but are less well documented than those of annual time scale. There is evidence that the ocean plays a role in decadal climate variability, and some proposals for large-scale ocean experiments to understand decadal variability have been made. The consensus seems to be that to develop a predictive capability, research on interannual climate phenomena should have first priority. At this time, no plans for ocean

studies explicitly directed to decadal climate scales have emerged in the World Climate Research Program.

Long-term climate variability, having time scales between decades and centuries, is not well documented [Hsieh, 1981]. The study of such phenomena obviously requires a long-term commitment. The economic impact is uncertain. It is even unclear how to make use of knowledge of long-term climatic variation if it were available.

#### Interannual Variability of the Tropical Ocean and the Global Atmosphere

The Southern Oscillation, a family of naturally occurring, interacting phenomena in the ocean and atmosphere that produces climate anomalies, provides an opportunity to carry out experiments in interannual climate forecasting and to develop a climate prediction capability. The phenomena that make up the Southern Oscillation (e.g., anomalies of sea-surface temperature, atmospheric pressure, precipitation, and temperature) are found in the tropical ocean and global atmosphere. In addition, some component processes of the Southern Oscillation, centered in the Pacific Ocean, may have analogues in the other tropical oceans. A study of these phenomena, their properties, their linkages, and their climate consequences holds promise of providing a predictive capability that far exceeds what can be achieved through atmospheric studies alone.

The Southern Oscillation is a large-scale exchange of atmospheric mass in the atmosphere between the eastern and western hemispheres in the tropics. It can be detected in sea-level atmospheric pressure records as a sea-saw of high pressure in the South Pacific Ocean and low pressure in the Indian Ocean alternating with the opposite conditions in the other phase of the cycle. It has a characteristic cycle length of a couple of years and may occur at 2- to 10-year intervals. It is the most obvious instance of interannual climate variability.

Associated with the Southern Oscillation are sea-surface temperature anomalies in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans. Changes in the equatorial current system and the heat content of the Pacific Ocean are particularly marked. The largest oceanic anomaly is El Niño, a sea-surface warming off South America. El Niño brings destruction to the fisheries off Peru and Ecuador. Plankton, fish, and birds, depending in a chain for nutrients provided by the upwelling of cold seawater off the coast, die. This has economic effects on the global markets for fish, poultry, and fertilizer. El Niño also brings heavy coastal rains that cause flooding and damage crops along the South American coast.

The Southern Oscillation has climate significance because it is a strong signal and because of its time scale [Climate Research Committee, 1983]. Though the Southern Oscillation does not occur regularly, an occurrence has correlated manifestations that normally persist for nearly 2 years from first to last appearance. This duration offers the potential to develop a predictive capability of perhaps a few months. The stages of the oscillation are tied to the annual cycle. That is, the component phenomena of the Southern Oscillation normally occur at specific seasons of the year.

From the viewpoint of the United States, the correlations of the Southern Oscillation with North American climate anomalies present an intriguing challenge. Can the Southern Oscillation be used to predict winter climate anomalies over the United States a season in advance?

Correlations between the Southern Oscillation and North American climate anomalies were first described in the 1930's by Sir Gilbert Walker. Since that time there has been growing evidence of the reality of these correlations. Winter temperature anomalies are correlated with earlier atmospheric pressure anomalies over the South Pacific and with sea-surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

During the winter of 1982-1983, the strongest El Niño event ever observed took place. It was not forecast, it was not generally recognized as an El Niño occurrence until it was well developed, and its subsequent evolution and duration were not anticipated. Considerable research has been stimulated by this event which underlined the incomplete state of our understanding.

The link between the tropical Pacific Ocean and the atmosphere has attracted considerable scientific attention. The Atlantic and Indian oceans also provide interesting but different examples of large-scale interactions between the tropical ocean and the global atmosphere. Atlantic sea-surface temperature anomalies correlate with droughts in Brazil. Those in the Indian Ocean correlate with variations in the Indian monsoon. As in the Pacific, tropical sea-surface temperature anomalies influence and in turn are influenced by the atmosphere.

The Indian Ocean region appears to play an important role in the Southern Oscillation. In addition, there is a large seasonal change in the Indian Ocean in response to the monsoon. The Somali Current, for instance, reverses its direction seasonally. The Indian Ocean thus provides a unique locale for studying some kinds of large-scale interaction between the ocean and the atmosphere. In-

deed, the early evolution of Southern Oscillation appears to occur in the atmospheric circulation over the southern Indian Ocean.

An experiment to study the Southern Oscillation and other interannual climate variations has been proposed. It is called the Interannual Variability of the Tropical Ocean and the Global Atmosphere Experiment (TOGA).

TOGA is an exciting opportunity. The Southern Oscillation is a strong climate signal. The economic benefits that could be derived from predicting the associated climate anomalies could be great. A number of excellent scientists are enthusiastically working on the problem. Progress is being made in data analysis, field experiments, and theoretical work. On the negative side, there is as yet no comprehensive theoretical framework for TOGA. The first fragments of a theory exist, and some linking physical mechanisms have been hypothesized. However, there is not yet a strong enough base of theory to design a full TOGA experiment with assurance.

To summarize, the Southern Oscillation presents a strong natural signal that promises a predictive capability for climate variations in temperate latitudes. The opportunity to study this phenomenon should not be missed, and the United States should support a major TOGA experiment in the Pacific. At the same time, complementary TOGA research activities should be supported in the Atlantic and Indian oceans, though other nations may play the principal role there.

#### World Ocean Circulation Experiment

We must understand the global oceanic circulation to understand the oceanic role in maintaining the climate state and in influencing climate variability. Without this knowledge we are unlikely to be able to predict future climate variations.

A large-scale oceanographic experiment to examine global ocean circulation and ocean climate processes is proposed. The World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE) will be directed at describing the circulation of the ocean, defining the linking physical processes in the ocean-atmosphere climate system, and understanding the sensitivity of that system to forcing by changes in the atmosphere.

Recent oceanographic studies have exposed a number of processes that could be important to the ocean's role in climate variability: mesoscale eddies, tropical waves, isopycnal mixing, the seasonal variation of the mixed layer, and mixing in the interior of the ocean. Computer models of the large-scale ocean circulation underline the importance of some of these processes. Thus, to observe and understand the climate of the ocean, we need to describe the processes relevant to climate in the ocean in enough detail to model them.

A major obstacle to obtaining observations of the ocean is the difficulty of obtaining measurements over long time scales and over great distances. Recent technical developments and new means of making measurements have made it feasible to consider carrying out a global experiment to understand the role of ocean circulation in climate. Orbiting satellites give promise of regular global measurements of sea-surface temperature, surface currents, and the wind stress on the sea-surface. If these observations are combined with subsurface remote sensing, it may be possible to develop a description of the ocean that, for the first time, would begin to be as complete as our description of the atmosphere.

A stated objective of WOCE is "to describe and understand quantitatively the general circulation of the ocean, in order to assess within the WCRP the sensitivity of the climate system to changes in external forcing, whether natural or anthropogenic, on time scales of decades to centuries" [Committee on Climate Changes in the Ocean, 1983a]. The proposal for WOCE has three types of scientific objectives:

1. To describe the general circulation of the ocean.
  2. To understand the rates and processes of water-mass transformation.
  3. To describe the spectrum of seasonal and broad-band ocean variability.
- To provide the basis of knowledge to understand the state of the ocean, we must describe the mean circulation of the ocean over several years as well as the space-time variability on time scales of months to years. This might in part be done as a global experiment lasting 5-10 years. In addition, special studies could focus on processes that would elude an experiment of this duration.

A common thread in many WOCE component studies is an earth-orbiting satellite that measures sea-surface elevation by altimetry and surface wind stress by scatterometry. Sea-surface elevation can define the field of surface geostrophic currents. With complementary measurements, such as of the density field in the interior of the ocean, the circulation in the ocean might be determined. Drifting and fixed buoys could provide complementary measurements. An intriguing possibility is to combine satellite observations of altimetry and wind stress with ocean acoustic tomography [Munk and Wunsch, 1982] to provide an ocean-observing system. This might be a major step in providing the kind of synoptic information in the ocean that has long been taken for granted in the atmosphere.

Proposals within NASA for an altimetric satellite have not been accepted so far by the administrator. This may in part be due to lack of a perceived consensus need for such a satellite. The European Space Agency is planning a Seasat-like satellite that will measure altimetry, to be launched in 1987. Japan may launch a satellite with an altimeter in 1990. The precision of these satellites may not be as great as that proposed for a U.S. altimetric satellite (TOPEX), but they could allow WOCE to proceed.

Satellite altimetry and scatterometry are essential for WOCE, for ocean climate monitoring, possibly for heat flux studies, and possibly for TOGA. There is thus a vital need for an earth-orbiting satellite for future ocean and climate research. To proceed with large-scale ocean experiments in the next decade, there will soon need to be commitments for satellites to support them.

#### Heat Transport Studies

Transport and storage of heat by the ocean is central to all theories of the role of the ocean in global climate and thus is central to predicting climate variations. As the study began, there were a number of proposals for major heat flux experiments. These experiments are now likely to take place as components of WOCE and TOGA.

The ocean dominates the energy storage of the combined ocean-atmosphere system. Heat can be stored in the ocean for periods that are long in comparison with atmospheric residence time. The ocean can transport this heat and give it up to the atmosphere far from the place where it was received. *Curt and Yander Haar* [1970] estimate that the ocean has a heat transport poleward from the tropics to mid-latitudes as large as mid-latitude atmospheric transport.

Heat flux is central to all ocean climate models. For model testing we need to be able to determine the poleward transport of heat by the oceans and its variation with time. Techniques for estimating ocean heat transport are subject to uncertainty. To deal confidently with the question of ocean heat transport, there must be means for measuring it to provide assurance in the estimates.

Two ocean heat flux experiments have been planned to explore the storage, transport, and transfer of heat by the ocean. The *Cage* experiment would examine the long-term mean heat flux, the annual cycle, and the interannual variability over the North Atlantic. The *Profile* experiment would investigate the short-term climate variability in the distributions of heat and salt in both the subtropical and subtropical gyres of the North Pacific, on time scales of months to years, for a period of approximately 10 years. It would also estimate transports and air-sea fluxes from independent measurements of heat and salt storage.

Many of our ideas about North Atlantic heat flux are stimulated by the direct estimate of *Hall and Bryden* [1982] of the poleward heat flux across 35°N latitude in the Atlantic. A corresponding estimate for the Pacific does not exist. In fact, the order of magnitude of the Pacific poleward heat transport is not known. We are being held back in developing our ideas about the North Pacific because of the lack of a trans Pacific Ocean poleward heat flux measurement.

#### Ocean Climate Monitoring

Monitoring, the collection of regular observations of the ocean and atmosphere over large regions for long periods of time, is a necessary element for progress in understanding climate variability. Yet, there is so far no commitment to establishing large-scale ocean climate monitoring programs, particularly in the ocean.

The long time scale of ocean climate anomalies may be an important factor for forecasting, but the length of time needed to describe and understand them presents a problem in experimental design. Events like the Southern Oscillation occur sporadically (typically at 2- to 7-year intervals) and have a cycle length of about 2 years. Such large-scale ocean-atmosphere interactions must be described over several years because of their complex nature. A description of a single event would not be sufficient to understand the phenomenon because each occurrence is different. An ensemble of descriptions is needed to separate out overlapping events and to define the phenomenon. Thus the time needed to describe and understand the Southern Oscillation is long.

It is thus important to have some means for ocean climate monitoring that can give regular, reliable, and repeated oceanic and atmospheric observations over the course of many years.

The next steps need not be elaborate. Many proposals for doing this have been made. The *Ocean Science Committee* [1974], in a series of workshops led by Henry Stommel, recommended the establishment of "phantom weather ships." In this program, commercial ships would collect measurements as they passed certain designated points in the ocean. The resultant time series would provide regular samples at fixed locations but without the ocean weather stations old but without the

Oceanography (cont. on p. 468)



## Oceanography (cont. from p. 467)

great expense of maintenance. There has been no move toward implementation. The obstacle seems more to be a lack of commitment than a lack of money.

Another source of climate information could be gained by extending the global network of sea-level observation. This would be particularly effective if extended to isolated islands. Proposals for sea-level observations go back many years. Since it is relatively inexpensive (e.g., compared with satellites), what is holding it back? International coordination is an issue. In addition, the collection of simple sea-level measurements over many years is not perceived as an attractive activity. The payoff is distant, the technology is not glamorous, and the program demands a long-term commitment. Nevertheless, to advance our knowledge of the ocean's role in the global climate system, sea-level measurements are important and effective.

To develop an effective ocean climate monitoring methodology, estimates of the space and time spectrum of oceanic variability for many regions of the ocean are first needed. Further, time series can explore the possible benefits of and practical means for monitoring various regions of the ocean. We call such short-term observational programs "exploratory time series."

Exploratory time series should be designed to resolve the spectrum of variability, to examine the feasibility of observational techniques, and to assess the benefits that might be obtained from future monitoring. They should be geographically dispersed, incorporated into large-scale oceanographic experiments, and used as a preliminary to ocean climate monitoring. Research scientists will normally design and establish the exploratory time series and analyze and review the results. Ocean climate monitoring, on the other hand, will normally be an operational activity, as monitoring now is in the atmosphere.

Although exploratory time series are a useful preliminary step, ocean climate research programs will need a reliable source of routine global data. Thus, there ultimately must be a commitment to ocean climate monitoring.

## Other Ocean Climate Research Issues

The large, internationally sanctioned ocean climate programs receive most of the attention, here as elsewhere. Yet a number of competent ocean scientists concerned with the climate variability problem are not convinced that they should work within the big programs. Oceanography has a tradition of independence. Some oceanographers interested in climate are reluctant to relinquish that independence in order to work within the large programs.

Ocean climate research is concerned, by definition, with global scientific questions. Can they be effectively addressed by independent studies? The easy course of action, and one that is not hard to defend, is to insist that oceanographers (and perhaps meteorologists) work together to study climate. Nevertheless, many ocean scientists who lack the taste for big programs have the potential to make progress in understanding climate. These people should not be excluded because they prefer not to work in big science. Whatever decisions are made about the big programs, NSF should continue to be flexible enough to support good ocean climate research ideas even when they are outside the "approved" framework.

Some oceanographers contend that global ocean climate planning is overblown and perhaps even unrealistic, that it does not take account of the difficulties in obtaining reliable data in the field, and that a better description of the ocean's structure and circulation is needed before moving on to understanding the ocean's role in climate. They argue for simpler field programs.

There is concern, too, that a global program should not begin before we are scientifically and technically ready to carry it off well. If we were to try prematurely and fail, it is likely that the funds to do it right would be a long time in coming.

A number of ideas for ocean climate research outside of the official programs have been presented that could improve our knowledge of climate variability. Some of these ideas may end up as components of the big programs (like WOCE) as program planning evolves. Among the ideas are the following:

1. Make a few long, deep hydrographic sections intended to provide a base of information about interior low-frequency ocean movements and dynamics.
2. Maintain and perhaps extend island tide stations in the western Pacific Ocean.
3. Maintain the Pacific XBT monitoring program, TRANSAC.
4. Carry out some small experiments to understand the physical processes that are important components in climate, such as air-sea fluxes of heat, water, and momentum.
5. Some ocean studies that may be important are less fashionable. Few oceanographers are studying the polar regions. Is the role of the ice-covered regions in climate variability receiving enough attention? This question has been reviewed, but there has been little follow-up.

## National Coordination

An ocean research program to understand climate change is too large to be supported by a single U.S. government agency. Several agencies will have important roles to play. However, a review of climate documents reveals that agencies often do not have a clear image of their role. One sometimes gets the impression that no clear criteria have guided an agency's choice of work.

The National Climate Program Office (NCPO), housed in NOAA, is responsible for administering the National Climate Program and coordinating among the agencies in the program. NCPO looks to NSF, as lead agency, for development of plans, budget requirements, agency responsibilities, and progress reports related to the Ocean Heat Transport and Storage Principal Thrust.

The NSF, as lead agency for Ocean Heat Transport and Storage, has the role of responsibility for oversight of the national ocean climate research program. NSF has been doing this through informal meetings with representatives of other agencies and by making extensive use of the National Research Council (the Board on Ocean Science and Policy) and the Climate Research Committee, in particular. If problems arise that involve the setting of priorities among the agencies, it may be necessary to set up a more formal steering mechanism.

All the lead agencies in the National Climate Program have had difficulty in coordinating their components. There is thus no good model for NSF to follow. NSF is the largest supporter of ocean climate research and has credibility with the other agencies in its lead role.

NSF research programs related to climate have typically involved collaborative research projects from a number of institutions. These programs may have a duration of from 3 to 5 years. Such a mode of operation tends to yield results that respond to specific scientific questions but is not well suited to programs that require a continuing year-after-year commitment. Long-term programs need to be part of a climate research program, and, hence, there is a need for other agencies that can support them to play a role complementary to that of NSF.

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been supporting a substantial ocean climate research program. NOAA programs include the Equatorial Pacific Ocean Climate Studies (EPOCS), the Subtropical Atlantic Climate Study (STACS), and oceanographic components of the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP). NOAA also has the lead responsibility for the U.S. TOGA program. In addition to carrying out ocean climate research, NOAA has other responsibilities that are important to the climate program. NOAA is the lead agency for the principal thrust of the National Climate Program entitled "Generation and Dissemination of Climate Information." NOAA's Environmental Data and Information Service runs the National Climate Center that manages oceanographic data. As the climate program progresses, the management of data and information will be a factor in its success. Thus, these elements of NOAA need to be involved in the planning for large ocean climate experiments. [q] NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) has responsibility for ocean monitoring. To date, NOS has exercised that responsibility chiefly in conventional mapping and charting activities. They have missed opportunities to support monitoring useful to ocean climate, such as the Pacific tide gauge network. A global study of the ocean's role in climate demands reliable ocean observations analogous to those taken for granted in the atmosphere. NOS ought to be working toward developing a ocean service on a par with the atmospheric service provided by the National Weather Service. Although NOS has not so far given a high priority to developing this capability, perhaps the creation of the National Ocean Service, from what has been the National Ocean Survey, will lead NOAA, through NOS, to accept responsibility for the needed ocean climate monitoring.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has the goal of developing spaceborne techniques for observing the ocean and thereby understanding oceanic behavior. NASA's spaceborne oceanic observations are intended to study ocean circulation, heat content, and heat flux. Such work involves the interaction of the ocean with the atmosphere and the effect of the ocean on climate. NASA has focused on scientific questions addressable by specific earth-orbiting satellite oceanographic sensors. They have commissioned a series of studies that, though not specifically directed to climate research, provide a valuable summary of satellite oceanographic capabilities and needs. WOCE will depend critically on remote sensing by satellite of sea-surface elevation, surface wind stress, and meteorological variables. Thus, something like the TOPEX satellite, with altimeter and scatterometer for global sensing of surface ocean currents and surface wind stress, is essential for WOCE. To date, NASA has not made a decision on this program, and the uncertainty is a major deterrent to the development of U.S. plans for WOCE.

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) does not now explicitly support ocean climate research. ONR does, however, support a number of process studies, particularly at the air-sea interface and in the surface mixed layer, that are relevant to climate. For example, work supported by ONR may be important in resolving the question of the ocean-atmosphere water-vapor flux. Our current understanding of ocean-atmosphere climate interaction owes a great deal to the results of the NORPAX program, which was supported for many years by ONR. ONR is also supporting the development of techniques in remote sensing that have direct application to ocean climate research experiments. Furthermore, naval operational activities need environmental information of the type that is important to climate research.

An important ingredient in the implementation of large-scale ocean climate research programs is a consensus opinion from U.S. oceanographers that the experiments can be done and should be done. A commitment by capable scientists to participate and to see that the experiments are successful is also needed. Without the consensus and the commitment, the federal agencies will find it difficult to develop the new funding needed for supporting these experiments.

One ingredient in developing a consensus is to allay the fears of many oceanographers that all new ocean research funds will go to the large programs, like WOCE. This concern needs to be addressed. The federal agencies, and particularly NSF, must be involved. The climate program advocates in the scientific community cannot assure their colleagues in other ocean research disciplines that a proper balance will be found. Those controlling the money must give this assurance. Here is an opportunity for program managers in NSF and other agencies to seek the opinions of oceanographers of all stripes, not just those with climate research interests. What should be the appropriate balance of support for these programs? What is the view of biological and geological oceanographers (for example) about the need for strong support of ocean climate research? Answers to such questions might be sought through National Research Council committees.

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This information report was contributed by Ferris Webster, College of Marine Studies, University of Delaware, Lewes, DE 19958.

## News &amp; Announcements

## Seismometer Washes Ashore

An ocean bottom seismometer (OBS) recently washed ashore at Wake Island and was shipped to the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics. It appears to be Instrument number 4 of the Texas Instrument Mark III series, built in 1964 for the Air Force Technical Applications Center. Some leakage into the sphere is indicated by moderate corrosion of the internal components. About half of the tape was pulled across the head.

Several such instruments were used and lost in experiments (recording of earthquakes and underground explosions) off the Kuril and Aleutian Islands in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Some instruments (serial numbers unknown) in the Mark II series may have been lost as early as 1964. Of the 13 Mark III instruments, 11 had been lost as of July 1968; we are unaware of their use (or the use of Mark IV's or V's) in recent years.

This OBS may have been in the ocean for an unprecedented number of years, and valuable data may still be present on the tape. We ask those who may be interested or who could provide details on the first experiment in which this instrument was used in please call or write Charles McCreery or Dan Walker, Hawaii Institute of Geophysics, 2825 Correa Road, Honolulu, HI 96822 (telephone: 808-948-8767).

This news item was submitted by Daniel Walker of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics.

## Emerging Ocean Issues

Seven topics have been identified by the topics committee of the Year of the Ocean as focal points of discussions as part of the Year of the Ocean celebration. The Year of the Ocean 1984, June 19, 1984, p. 402, and April 24, 1984, p. 329) is a year-long commemorative and celebratory, begun on July 1, of the oceans. The commemorative has been endorsed by Congress and by President Ronald Reagan.

The topics committee is composed of nearly 20 representatives from government, industry, and academia. Thomas Magnitt, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's office of policy and planning, is the chairman of the topics committee.

Summaries of the discussion topics and the requisite questions, as described by the Year of the Ocean, are listed below.

• **Effects of Oceans on World Climate.** How does the ocean affect our climate and weather? How close are we to predicting climatic extremes? What are the consequences of such predictions?

• **Marine Transportation.** The U.S. Merchant Marine ranked first in deadweight tonnage in 1950, but by 1980, it had dropped to eighth. The U.S. relies on marine transportation for 99% of its export and import trade. What is happening to our Merchant Marine and why? How many ports can the U.S. economy continue to support? Can technology lower ship building and operating costs enough to make these industries more competitive? Will the United States have a reliable merchant marine force for national emergencies?

• **The Oceans as a Source of Food.** Although fish and other living marine resources provide important sources of protein throughout the world, many fish stocks have been overfished, and marine and estuarine habitats have been polluted. Domestic and international competing fishing interests require that fish stocks be managed so that populations remain stable or increase. Is the current system of allocating fish resources working adequately? What steps are being taken to replenish depleted stocks of important marine species? What is being done to develop markets for currently underutilized species? What is the future of aquaculture in the United States?

• **The Ocean as a Source of Minerals.** Do we have adequate surveys of marine mineral resources? What do we currently know about deposits there? What are the technological capabilities and limitations of developing mineral resources in extreme environments? What are the environmental impacts of technology for controlling accidents at sea? What are the implications of the Law of the Sea Treaty on development of marine mineral resources in international waters?

• **Marine Recreation.** Are the fish caught by recreational fishermen safe to eat? Are saltwater fishing licenses for sportsmen a way of funding research and habitat enhancement projects for recreationally important species? Are navigational aids maintained and charts updated to insure safe boating? In how many places is the water unsafe for swimming? What are the proper practices for controlling coastal erosion in specific locations such as beaches and channels?

• **Ocean Pollution, Dumping, and Hazardous Waste Management.** Can the U.S. government find a balance between our need to dispose of wastes and the necessity for a healthy environment? Have we fully realized the reverberations of such dumping on the delicate balance of marine ecosystems (e.g., the food chain)? Are our current dumping patterns stretching the assimilative capacities of the oceanic waters? Can we assess the fate and effects of past dumping of hazardous wastes in the ocean?

• **Future Ocean Exploration and Technology.** Topics for discussion include studying the ocean from space and alternate energy sources and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC).—BTH

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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Geochronologist.** The University of California, Davis, Department of Geology, has an opening for a one-year temporary faculty position for Fall 1984. Specific fields are open; however, specialization in isotope and economic geochronology are desirable. The Department has strong programs in paleogeography, paleoclimatology, geophysics, and crust and mantle evolution. A Ph.D. is required. Responsibilities include graduate and undergraduate teaching and research in geochronology.

Applicants should submit a vita, statement of research and teaching interests, and the names of three references as soon as possible, as the position is for the Fall, 1984 quarter.

We anticipate that this position will be opened on a permanent, tenure track basis during the next academic year. A successful candidate for this temporary position can apply for the tenure track position. Inquiries and applications should be sent to: Chair, Search Committee, Department of Geology, University of California, Davis, California 95616.

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**Geologist-Geophysicist/Institute for Geophysics.** The University of Texas at Austin, The Institute for Geophysics at the University of Texas at Austin has openings for research staff, particularly in the areas of theoretical seismology and sea-going marine geology/geophysics. The Institute is located in Austin and operates closely with the Department of Geological Sciences of the University. It is a vigorous and growing group with interests in both land and marine geology/geophysics. Research facilities include a 100-ton ship equipped with multibeam, high resolution seismic reflection and OBS seismic refraction capabilities. A VAX 11/780 computer with MISO software is available for data processing.

Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in geology, geophysics or related appropriate field and have demonstrated creativity in research. Senior and mid-career researchers as well as recent Ph.D.'s are encouraged to apply. Applications should be received by September 15, 1984. The salary is dependent upon qualifications. Please forward applications, curriculum vitae, names of at least three references, and other supporting material to: Dr. E. A. Maxwell, Director, Institute for Geophysics, The University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7150, Austin, TX 78712.

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**Stanford University/Plasma Physics, EM Waves, Space Physics.** We are seeking a senior person who has demonstrated scientific, managerial, and leadership qualifications in one or more of the following disciplines: Space Plasma Physics, electromagnetic waves, and solar-terrestrial physics. We expect the successful candidate to have established an outstanding reputation internationally through professional writings or other evidence of personal technical creativity, letters of reference from recognized research leaders in the disciplines mentioned above, and/or awards and other recognition from appropriate professional societies.

It is expected that this individual will develop a research program in one of the disciplines given above working in collaboration with ongoing programs within the STAR Laboratory and, possibly, with other activities within the Stanford Center for Space Science and Astrophysics. It is expected that this individual will have a strong background in experimental techniques, either in the laboratory or in the field, including the environment of space; experimental activities in either laboratory or space plasma physics would be regarded as good qualifications. However, close association with theoretical developments is also desirable.

Please send vita, including list of publications, salary requirements, and references, plus reprints of major publications to:

Professor Charles C. Counselman, III  
c/o L.A. Birckbe  
Personnel Office, E19-238  
M.I.T.

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**Postdoctoral Position/University of Arizona.** A postdoctoral position has been opened at the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, in July 1984. The research is in the general area of space and planetary physics with much of the work related to Voyager EUV observations at the outer planet environments. The program includes work in plasma physics concerned mostly with the fundamental nature of the ionosphere and upper atmosphere and natural processes on Jupiter, Saturn, Titan, Uranus and Neptune, exoplanetary magnetosphere modelling at Saturn, and some specialized aspects of the interplanetary-interstellar medium. The applicants should have a background in atomic and molecular physics with an interest in planetary atmospheres. Applications should contain vita, statement of interest, and names of three references, and should be submitted by August 30, 1984. Further information can be obtained by contacting Dr. E. Shemansky, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, 3025 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, Arizona 85719; 602-626-4504.

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**University of Texas at Austin.** The Department of Geological Sciences seeks to fill tenure track positions effective fall 1985 in one or more of the following disciplines: 1) micropaleontology, 2) tectonics, 3) paleogeography, 4) paleoclimatology, 5) hydrogeology, and 6) mineralogy-geochemistry. Each person is expected to teach both undergraduate and graduate courses and to conduct a vigorous research program, including the supervision of graduate students, in the area of his or her specialty. The positions require the Ph.D. degree. Applicants should submit a detailed resume, names and addresses of three references, a statement of teaching and research interests, and a copy of their dissertation abstract by December 1, 1984 to: Dr. William L. Flinn, Department of Geological Sciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78713-7003.

development in plasma physics and/or electromagnetic theory will be highly desired. It is also expected that the individual will have a demonstrated capability for securing federal or other research grant support, or be directed by the selection committee of being capable of securing such funds.

It is anticipated that the person chosen will serve the major part of his or her time to research activities. However, there is an opportunity for participation in academic responsibilities of Electrical Engineering Department, including, when time permits, teaching graduate and undergraduate classes, serving on various committees of the department, School of Engineering, and the University. It is expected that the person chosen will participate actively in the training of graduate students.

The Chairman of the selection committee for this position is Professor Robert A. Hellweger, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Space, Telecommunications, and Radiocenter Laboratory, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305. Other members of the selection committee include Professor P.M. Banks, Professor R.N. Bracewell, Professor R.L. Stork, and Professor L. Tyler.

**University of Texas at Austin.** The Department of Geological Sciences invites applications for a person to teach depositional systems and sedimentology at the undergraduate and graduate levels and to conduct a vigorous research program, including the supervision of graduate students, in the area of the person's interest. The person must be willing to teach the above subjects to non-major on campus students. The position requires the Ph.D. and is open to both tenure-seeking junior persons and senior-level persons. Availability by January 1985 is desirable. Applicants should submit a detailed resume, names and addresses of three references, and a statement of teaching and research interests by November 1, 1984 to: Dr. Earle F. McBride, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas at Austin, Texas 78712. New Ph.D. holders should also submit a copy of their dissertation abstract.

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**Hydrogeologist/Texas A&M University.** The Department of Geology and Center for Engineering Geosciences have a tenure track opening, preferably assistant professor level, for which the first search will be for a creative individual working in applied geological hydrology.

The successful applicant will be expected to develop teaching and research programs at a national level. The position is available beginning September 1, 1984 and will be held open until filled. Applicants should submit a vita including names of references to: M.C. Gilbert, Department of Geology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

Texas A&M University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.

**Faculty Positions/Florida State University.** The Department of Meteorology, Florida State University, expects to appoint two faculty members in August 1984 at the rank of assistant professor or associate professor level, for which the first search will be for a creative individual working in applied meteorology.

Applicants should hold a Ph.D. in meteorology or a related field and have demonstrated creativity in research. Senior and mid-career researchers as well as recent Ph.D.'s are encouraged to apply. Applications should be received by September 15, 1984. The salary is dependent upon qualifications. Please forward applications, curriculum vitae, names of at least three references, and other supporting material to: Dr. E. A. Maxwell, Director, Institute for Geophysics, The University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Box 7150, Austin, TX 78712.

The University of Texas is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and invites applications from all qualified candidates.

**Satellite Geodesist.** The scientific staff position available 1 October 1984 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, is a full-time position in the long-term program of research in geodesy with radio interferometry with Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in geodesy, and ability and experience in radio interferometry with satellites, as demonstrated by substantial publications and reference reports. Expertise in FORTRAN scientific programming, in statistics, in the use of satellite geodesy, and in parameter estimation techniques applicable to large, multi-parameter geodesic problems is essential. Experience in performing field work and in data processing on IBM mainframe and/or small PDP-11 computer systems would be helpful, as would knowledge of the GPS, geodetic reference systems, and network adjustments. Strong skills in oral and written presentation of research results are required.

Please send vita, including list of publications, salary requirements, and references, plus reprints of major publications to:

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**Request for Proposals.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Corvallis Environmental Research Laboratory is seeking PREPROPOSALS for research on the effects of acidic deposition on the chemistry of surface waters. The purpose of the research will be to improve our understanding of the mechanisms of surface water acidification with the ultimate goal of predicting such effects of acidic deposition on regional and national scales. Specific areas of research to be addressed are: (1) retention of sulfate within soils; (2) flux of base cations from soil; (3) hydrologic response of watersheds; and (4) development/application of watershed-scale models for prediction of future effects. Written requests for information on preproposal submission are to be received not later than September 14, 1984, and are to be forwarded to: Dr. Raymond C. Wilford, Chief, Air Pollution Effects Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 200 S.W. 35th Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97331. Please specify research area of interest.

**Faculty Positions in Geophysical Sciences/The University of Chicago.** The Department of the Geophysical Sciences invites applications for positions at all levels across the entire range of earth and planetary sciences, including meteorology and oceanography. Particular attention will be given to applicants in interdisciplinary areas with prospects for major advances in observation, theory and application. Please send resume and reprints to Joseph V. Smith, Chairman, Appointments Committee, 5754 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637, USA. Applications will be considered rapidly throughout the year.

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**Princeton University.** The Department of Geological and Geophysical Sciences invites applications for a tenure track appointment beginning September 1, 1985, as the Assistant Professor level in the Earth Science Geology with specialization in "Air/Ar" mass spectrometry.

Candidates must be thoroughly grounded in the fundamentals of isotope studies (stable and radiogenic) and their application in earth science, and have a strong background in geology, geophysics, or related fields. The appointee will be expected to supervise our newly assembled continuous-laser-heating Argon age laboratory, and to participate in collaborative research programs using this facility. Teaching duties are to complement and expand the existing programs.

Applicants should send resume and names of three references to: Robert A. Palmer, Chairman, Department of Geological and Geophysical Sciences, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. 08544.

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